



Runge Conservation Nature Center

# Habitat Happenings

January and February 2005

Symbols have been used to identify items on maps, street signs, and even used to label sports teams. National symbols are those used by states and countries to represent the people, land, and their history. All fifty states in the United States have state symbols. What do the eastern bluebird, the flowering dogwood, and the Missouri mule have in common? They describe or interpret Missouri and are a few of Missouri's state symbols.

Our state symbols play an important role in interpreting Missouri. In 1923, Missouri adopted its first natural symbol, the hawthorn. Since the time of its adoption as the state floral emblem, citizens and politicians have been petitioning for a variety of natural symbols. The hawthorn blossom was chosen as the floral emblem of Missouri for its beautiful floral clusters, abundance and wide distribution. Different species of hawthorn trees can be found in every county of Missouri. Growing in woodlands, they bloom in late April into June. The flower is followed by a fruit called a haw. As you might assume, this tree bears thorns on its branches giving the tree its name. This tree, with its apple-like fruit, provides food for wildlife and is also considered a wonderful wild edible.

Hawthorn



Each natural symbol can reveal much about the land of yesterday and today. Missouri's state fish, the channel catfish, is native to our state and is one of the most abundant fish in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. This fish is harvested for sport and by the commercial industry. In 1997, a 4-H group surveyed Missourians and asked for their suggestions on important fish in Missouri. Citizens agreed that the channel catfish provided many benefits for Missouri. Understanding the value of the channel catfish in Missouri, the group urged their representatives to pass this bill.

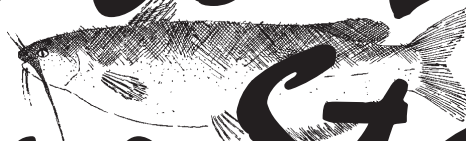
Like all fifty states, Missouri uses symbols to represent the land and its people. From the hawthorn, symbolizing the abundance of beneficial flowering trees in Missouri to the channel catfish representing its commercial and recreational values, Missouri's natural symbols play an important role in interpreting the natural resources.

Missouri has many natural symbols. Can you name them? Come to Runge and explore our exhibits. How many natural state symbols can you find? Find five and get a Missouri symbol sticker.

Design your own symbols. What things represent you? Read more about those things that best describe you and make a collage to share with friends and family.

By Andrea Putnam

# Symbols of Our State





# Volunteer News

## A year in review. . .

► A crew of 50 volunteered 7,564 hours, which equals almost 950 working days.



► Our volunteers presented or assisted with 175 nature center programs.

► Our volunteers brought the conservation message to hundreds of people in our community and surrounding communities at KidsFest and Earth Day, Jefferson City; Outside/In, Linn; Eldon Turkey Festival; Lewis & Clark, Hartsburg; and many others.



◀ Two of our volunteers, Nadine Marshall and Carolyn Brunner reached a 5,000 hour milestone. This is a first for Runge Nature Center volunteers.

► In April 2004, 18 new graduates joined the volunteer ranks at Runge.



*On July 3, 1985, Governor John Ashcroft signed a bill designating the honeybee as Missouri's state insect. The honeybee, yellow or orange and black in color, is a social insect which collects nectar and pollen from flower blossoms in order to produce honey.*

## Exhibits

### Local Amateur Photographer Teresa Neuner.

Teresa has worked in the photography field for 40 years. Her photographs have been published in *Images of Missouri* and *Images of Kansas City*. She is also a freelance photographer for tourism publications. Her photos are a must see!

## Notice!

In observance of Christmas and the New Year, Runge Nature Center will be closed on December 25th and 26th and January 1st and 2nd.

## Thank You!

Keith Contracting LLC, Nuway, and Great Central Lumber for your generous

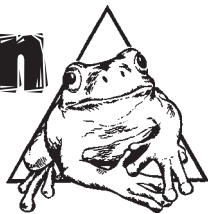


donations to our Haunted Habitats Halloween event. This year we had over 3,300 people attend.

### Runge Conservation Nature Center

is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544. [www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/cnc/runge/](http://www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/cnc/runge/)

# Conservation Kids' Club



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required to attend.

## **Nighttime Naturalists**

**Tuesday, January 18 — 6:00-7:00PM**

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Bundle up in your warm woolies for a wild winter night hike! We'll be hiking about a mile down one of our wintery nature center trails. Be on the lookout for nighttime wildlife. Discover how several kinds of animals survive the coldest days of winter. Warm up with hot cocoa when you're done exploring.

## **Juggling the Earth's Resources**

**Tuesday, February 14 — 6:00-7:00PM**

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Laugh and learn about our environment with professional presenters Jay and Leslie Cady! They use juggling balls as atoms and molecules to explain ozone depletion and the carbon dioxide cycle. Watch out for their mime, magic, and hilarious humor as you gather facts about what you can do to help our environment. Real teaching using every trick in the book!

## **Hey, Parents!**

*While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, January 18, 6:00PM and February 14, 6:00PM. No reservations required.*

*Join us at the nature center for some natural fun!*



# Holiday Array

*December 28 ~ 30*



### **28Tuesday**

#### **Bird Hike/Birdfeeder Watch**

*Time: 10:00AM*

#### **Recycled Paper Bead Making/ Quill Making and Writing**

*Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM and 2:00-4:00PM*

#### **Nature Bingo**

*Time: 1:00PM*

#### **Decorating Naturally and Winter Walk**

*Time: 2:00-4:00PM - Adults only*  
Bring a small wreath (12"), glue gun and glue sticks and we'll provide the natural materials. You'll also enjoy the outdoors with a winter walk on one of our trails.

#### **Fireside Stories**

*Time: 3:00PM*

### **29Wednesday**

#### **Holiday Symbols Hike**

*Time: 10:00AM*

#### **Live Nature Music-Lobby**

*Time: 11:00*

#### **Nature Fun Activities-Lobby**

*Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM*

#### **Otterly Amazing**

*Time: 1:00PM*

Reservations required.

#### **Winter Bingo**

*Time: 2:00PM*

#### **Fireside Stories**

*Time: 3:00PM*

### **30Thursday**

#### **Bird Hike/Birdfeeder Watch**

*Time: 10:00AM*

#### **Nature Fun Activities-Lobby**

*Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM*

#### **Dulcimer Music with Paul Harvey**

*Time: 11:00AM and 1:00PM*

#### **Puppet Craft**

*Time: 2:00PM*

#### **Puppet Show - "Where Do You Go When It Feels Like Snow?"**

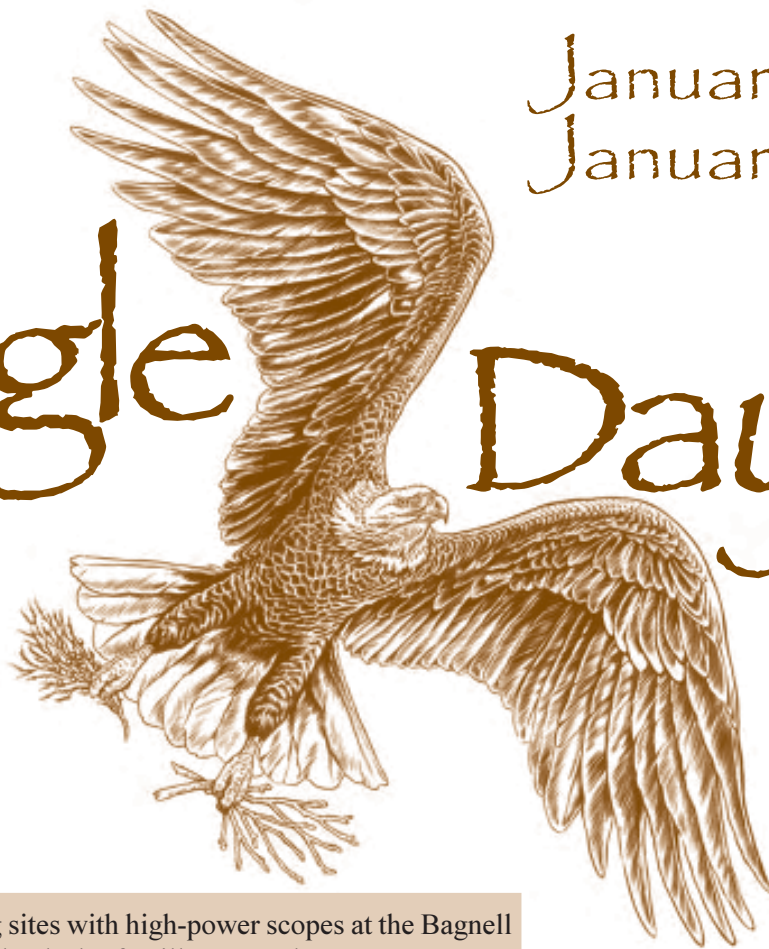
*Time: 2:30PM*

#### **Winter Walk to look for signs of animals**

*Time: 3:00PM*

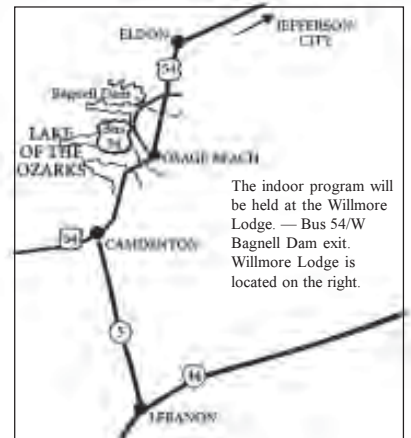


# Eagle Days



January 8 9am - 4pm  
January 9 10am - 4pm

- ~Wild eagle viewing sites with high-power scopes at the Bagnell Dam access and on the deck of Willmore Lodge.
- ~Live eagles and staff from World Bird Sanctuary at Willmore Lodge.
- ~Souvenirs will be for sale in Willmore Lodge.
- ~Eagle watch cruises on the Paddle Wheeler *Tom Sawyer* (conditions permitting) on Saturday at 11am, Noon, 1pm, and 2pm. Cost \$4 per person. Sunday will be a rain date for cruises.



## Willmore Lodge~Lake Ozark

Sponsored by the Runge Conservation Nature Center  
and the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce



### ***Habitat Happenings***

Runge Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 64102

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Jefferson City Missouri  
Permit No. 274



# January Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after 8:00AM on January 3rd** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

## RESERVATION Change!

Beginning with the January/February 2005 newsletter we will implement a **month-at-a-time** reservation policy. This means that you may start making reservations for programs on the first day of the month in which the programs occur. You can sign up for January programs on January 3rd and February programs on February 1st. By switching to a monthly reservation system, we hope to streamline the scheduling process.

**8** *Saturday*

### Eagle Days

*Time: 9:00AM-4:00PM*

*Ages: All*

See back page for additional information. No reservations required.

**9** *Sunday*

### Eagle Days

*Time: 10:00AM-4:00PM*

*Ages: All*

See back page for additional information. No reservations required.

**12** *Wednesday*

### Sharing Your World with Wildlife-Bear Achievement#5

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: 3rd Grade Cub Scouts*

Reservations required.

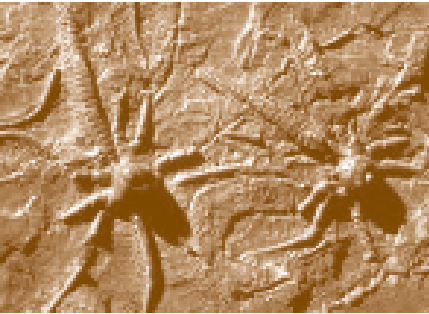
**13** *Thursday*

### Winged Migration

*Time: 6:30-8:30PM*

*Ages: All*

If you've never seen the award winning film, **Winged Migration**, this is your chance! Even better, Jim D. Wilson, the former state ornithologist, will introduce this exceptional movie with its sweeping vistas of birds. He will also be on hand to answer questions. This program is cosponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. Reservations not required.



The crinoid became the state's official fossil on June 16, 1989, after a group of

Lee's Summit school students worked through the legislative process to promote it as a state symbol.

## Lewis and Clark Trunks Available

Runge Nature Center has Lewis and Clark Educational Resource Trunks available, for two-week check-outs. These trunks will give students a chance to handle tools and materials similar to those the expedition carried, as they discover the importance of natural resources to the westward expansion and compare them to those of today. Lesson plans are included. Please call Robin at 573/522-4115 ext. 3405 to reserve a trunk.

### Habitat Happenings


**15** *Saturday*

### Runge Hiking Club






*Time: 8:00AM-Noon*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Come join the Runge Hiking Club for our annual New Year's hike. It's a tradition! We'll car pool to Painted Rock State Forest to hike the Osage Bluff Scenic Trail (1.6 miles ) one of the most interesting and scenic trails in the state. We'll warm up by hiking up to 140-foot-high bluffs, down to the river level, and back up for magnificent views of the Osage river valley. We'll see ancient cedars, view remnants of a Native American burial cairn, and have a 50/50 chance of spotting a bald eagle. Bring water and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**Trail rating system** for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.

-  -Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)
-  -Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
-  -Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
-  -Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
-  -Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

**16** *Sunday*

### Birds in Winter

*Time: 1:00-2:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Let's go over the basics of bird feeding and how these tiny flyers survive harsh winters. Learn to identify birds at your feeders using size, shape, and color. Share you own stories of bird sightings. We'll conclude by making a suet cake to share with our backyard birds. Reservations required.

**20** *Thursday*

### Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

*Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,*

*3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: 50 and older*

Reminisce with us as we focus on 3 of our most popular patterns from the past including the flowering dogwood. During this program, you will gain interesting insights into our state tree. Reservations required.

**26** *Wednesday*

### Homeschoolers: Who Eats Who-o-o?

*Time: 2:00-3:00PM*

*Ages: Homeschoolers 8-16 years*

Owl pellets provide clues to the mysteries of the food chain. Learn what owl pellets are and dissect them to identify what's inside. Reservations required.

**26** *Wednesday*

### Earth and Sky Brownie Try-It

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: 2nd-4th Grade Brownie Scouts*

Reservations required.

## For the Little Ones

### Babes In The Woods

*Birth through 2 years of age*

The Babes in the Woods program is taking a winter nap. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April newsletter.

### Little Acorns

*3 through 6 years of age*

Tuesday, January 11 – 10:00AM

Friday, January 14 – 1:00PM

Tuesday, January 25 – 10:00AM

Thursday, January 27 – 10:00AM

Saturday, January 29 – 10:00AM

### Nature Stories for the Very Young

It may be cold and dreary outside, but inside is alive with activity found between the pages of books. Otters, salamanders, frogs and more bring excitement and activity to our program this month. Reservations required.

**28** *Friday*

### Owl Prowl

*Time: 6:00-7:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Bark, screech, and hoot! Join us as we uncover the mysteries of Missouri's owls. Look at owl mounts and listen to their sounds, then head outside in search of owls along wintry nature center trails. Dress for the weather. Reservations required.

**29** *Saturday*

### Reading Book Discussion Group

*Time: 2:30-4:00PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

This month we will be reading ***Mind of the Raven*** by Bernd Heinrich. This will be our third selection by this award winning author! This book came highly recommended by one of the group participants.

David Quammen of the New York Times Book Review says, "Heinrich has a rare ability to embed dense scientific explications within graceful, light footed nature writing...The mind of Bernd Heinrich is a big, antic thing, like a raven, and meant to live outdoors."

Read and enjoy this wonderful book and join us for a casual and meaningful discussion. This book is available at Downtown Book and Toy with a 30% discount for reading/discussion group participants. Reservations required.



On June 20, 1955, the flowering dogwood became Missouri's official tree.





# February Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after 8:00AM on February 1<sup>st</sup>** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.



**5** *Saturday*

## Bluebirds

*Time: 11:00AM-Noon*

*Ages: All*

Our state bird, the eastern bluebird, is a welcome bird in any yard! Join us as we learn how to attract bluebirds. We will discuss plantings, houses, feeders, and baths. Reservations required.

**9** *Wednesday*

## Watching Wildlife Try-It

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: 2nd-4th Girl Scout Brownies*

Reservations required.

**10** *Thursday*

## Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Hellbenders

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: All Ages*

They aren't cuddly and cute, but hellbenders are important. Find out their importance, and why they are disappearing. Learn the truth about hellbender myths. Jeff Briggler, a herpetologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will speak on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Hellbenders." The program is cosponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

**14** *Tuesday*

## Juggling the Earth's Resources

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Laugh and learn about our environment with professional presenters Jay and Leslie Cady! They use juggling balls as atoms and molecules to explain ozone depletion and the carbon dioxide cycle. Watch out for their mime, magic, and hilarious humor as you gather facts about what you can do to help our environment. Real teaching using every trick in the book! Reservations required.

**17** *Thursday*

## Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

*Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM, 3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM*

*Ages: 50 and older*

It is another month of reminiscing as we look at 3 more popular patterns from the past. During the program we will delve into the history of black bears in Missouri. Reservations required.

**17** *Thursday*

## Bluebirds

*Time: 7:00-8:00PM*

*Ages: All*

Our state bird, the eastern bluebird, is a welcome bird in any yard! Join us as we learn how to attract bluebirds. We will discuss plantings, houses, feeders, and baths. Reservations required.


## Habitat Happenings

**19** *Saturday*

## Runge Hiking Club

*Time: 8:00AM-5:00PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

Many pioneers from Kentucky and Tennessee settled in the Ozark hill country, perhaps because the area reminded them of their Appalachian homeland. We'll explore some of this country in the Mark Twain National Forest and find a hidden natural tunnel on the **Kaintuck Trail** (6 miles ) on the **Mill Creek Area**, which is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Houston/Rolla District. We'll eat lunch along the trail, so bring a small pack, your lunch, and water. Hiking boots are recommended for this trip. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**20** *Thursday*

## Bee Mine

*Time: 2:00-3:00PM*

*Ages: All*

February is the month of sweets and flowers. Did you know that a hive of bees must visit two million flowers to make one pound of honey? Join us as we learn why flowers need bees! See a live hive in action and learn other fun facts about our state insect. No reservations required.

**20** *Sunday*

## Bee Creative!

*Time: 2:00-4:00PM*

*Ages: All*

The Runge lobby will be a buzz with crafts and fun. There will be activities for all ages! No reservations required.

**23** *Wednesday*

## Bird Elective

*Time: 6:30-7:30PM*

*Ages: 2nd grade Cub Scouts*

Reservations required.

## Scout Packs Available

Scout leaders, you can now check out packs to work on a badge. Make your reservation with Andrea at 573/522-4115 ext. 3401.

Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*

Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*

Naturalist & Forester Pack (This pack contains activities that meet requirements of both the Naturalist and Forester badges.)

Brownie Try-It - *Animals*

Brownie Try-It - *Plants*

## For the Little Ones

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*Birth through 2 years of age*

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### Little Acorns

*3 through 6 years of age*

Tuesday, February 8 – 6:00PM

Tuesday, February 15 – 11:00AM

Tuesday, February 22 – 10:00AM

Friday, February 25 – 10:00AM

Saturday, February 26 – 10:00AM

### Rise and Shine

Is it time to wake up from a long winter's nap? February is the month to learn about groundhogs and whether or not they can answer that question. Reservations required.

**26** *Saturday*

## Reading Book Discussion Group

*Time: 2:30-4:00PM*

*Ages: 18 years and older*

For February the Book Discussion Group will be reading ***Small Wonder—Essays*** by Barbara Kingsolver. Barbara Kingsolver's fiction writing is thought provoking and entertaining. The San Francisco Chronicle said this book is "Soulful and Soul-searching...A passionate invitation to readers to be a part of the crowd that cares about the environment, peace, and family." Enjoy reading this delightful book of essays and come share with the group your favorite and why...

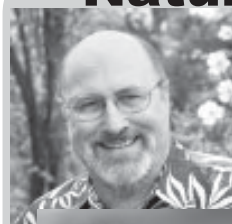
This book is available at Downtown Book and Toy with a 30% discount for reading/discussion group participants. Reservations required.



The nut produced by the black walnut tree, known as the eastern black walnut, became the state tree nut on July 9, 1990. The nut has a variety of uses. The meat is used

in ice cream, baked goods and candies. The shell provides the soft grit abrasive used in metal cleaning and polishing and oil well drilling.

## Nature Shop News January/February featured item



### Jim Rathert In Focus

This book showcases the work of Missouri Department of Conservation photographer, Jim Rathert. For 19 years he's delighted *Missouri Conservationist* readers with exquisite photographs of wild Missouri. Through text rich with his insights, Jim shares his knowledge and techniques for photographing in the wild. Get behind the lens with Jim and see Missouri's prairies, wetlands, forests, glades, and flowing waters as you never have. Discounted price: \$14.40 plus tax



**20% off**

Heritage card discount does not apply.